

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Raskin:

Thank you for your February 4, 2025 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

During immigration enforcement operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) asks standard questions regarding the immigration status of those encountered. ICE's enforcement resources are based on intelligence-driven leads, and ICE officers do not target aliens indiscriminately. Instead, ICE conducts targeted enforcement actions. Targeted and intelligence-driven enforcement actions are an integral part of ICE's mission to enforce U.S. immigration law. ICE officers carefully assess whether aliens are appropriate for arrest based on the specifics of their case.

ICE procedures are intended to ensure prompt investigation to determine whether an encountered individual is a U.S. citizen. On November 10, 2015, ICE issued ICE Directive 16001.2, *Investigating Potential U.S. Citizenship of Individuals Encountered by ICE*, which established ICE policies and procedures for ensuring potential U.S. citizenship of individuals encountered by ICE officers, agents, and attorneys is immediately and carefully investigated. This policy remains in effect without any updates. ICE has significant protections in place to ensure U.S. citizens are not mistakenly arrested, detained, or removed, and claims to U.S. citizenship are evaluated as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

Thank you again for your letter. Ranking Member Jayapal will receive a separate, identical response. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs via email at CongresstoDHS@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristi Noem", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security